Edmond Malone

Q3. 1596

This copy of Venus and Adonis belonged to the small volume of rare old poetry, which was sold at Dr Rawlinson's sale in 1698 for 1s. 5d. That little volume was afterwards purchased by my friend the late Mr Thomas Warton for sixpence, and after his death was given me by his brother Dr Joseph Warton. I have since it bound it, reserving this piece for its present place, that it might be united with the other compositions of Shakspeare.

I have never seen or heard of any other copy of Venus and Adonis, of this date, except that here preserved.

There was unquestionably an earlier edition, printed in 4to in 1593, or 1594, but no copy of it is known to be extant, nor has it ever been seen by any editor of Shakspeare within these 70 years. I have no doubt however that it will be discovered hereafter, lying hid in some old Library. See my Vindication of Shakspeare, p. 67. note.

VENVS

AND ADONIS.

Vilia miretur vulgus: mihi flauus Apollo
Pocula Castalia plena ministret aqua.

BIBLIOTECA NACIONAL

Imprinted at London by R. F. for
Iohn Harison.
1596.